

INANE JOCULARITIES.

WORDS AND PHRASES TO BE FORGOTTEN.

From the London Spectator.

There is nothing in the world which produces the same sense of mental malady as is computed by or more certain to bring to the intellectual stomach, than the use of certain jocundities of speech with which many people think fit to adorn their conversation. The people who seem to find it impossible to speak of unwarmed man except in such language as "the herring-powder," and a horse "a fiery steed," who eternally talk about "sunday go-to-meeting" clothes, and who have such phrases as "no extra charge" for the titillating minister, and "the price of peace," "fortunes," and "shaving the elements," forever on their lips, are capable of producing a sense of disgust in those who care to see language kept bright and clean, while others cant phrases—that is, a proper description of them—are more often used when used consciously or unconsciously—than by people who believe them to be funny, than intend that their hearers should be made amiss, or by those who have caught them up and repeat them in paroxysms, and without any intention, good or bad. In our own opinion, the use of "common-gorn" jocularities is most offensive in those who think of them as unconscious, and no more methods of exposing their meaning. We feel that those who try to force a laugh out of such expressions as "a downy couch," or "a sun-bath," or "a morning sun," squirm like a snake when they ask if there isn't room for a little "room," or who speak of "japanizing their trots cases" might fairly be shot at sight. When some excellent mother of a large and noisy family, family-catched up, and running outside a square meal, "the clerk of the weather," "she's not chicken," or "put on your war-paint," and when even the father mechanically takes up his abominable jocundities overcomes all other feelings. With such an exhibition before our eyes, we can only feel that naught remains but to pass by with averted heads. As in all other people, who are members of these communities, the moral standpoint of those who try to be funny with the hollow glibness of mere imitation. They have a half-hearted belief that they are being funny, but at the same time, the chief charm of the masculine persuasion is the fact that they hear those with whom they associate doing the same. They say, "Why this thinness?" or, "A fine day for the ducks," just as they say "Yes!" or "No."

As so many people are jocular while meaning it, may it be worth while to quote some examples of the more serious speech which should avoid all probability. There are thousands of persons of most exemplary behavior, and of excellent moral character in other respects, whose speech is inadvertently studded with such jocundities against which we are protection, and who are not even aware of the shocking exhibition they often make of themselves. Let it not be supposed for a moment that it is only the young of one sex, or the "girls" of the other who are guilty of such sins in the first place. The use of jocularities is by no means exclusively a sin of the vulgar. Plenty of people who would not talk about "The Murphys," "Lord Hamilton," and the like meant "Look here, I'm not fooling you, I'm not fooling you," and declare that they are "full inside," the fact and example of the masculine persuasion. It is the fact that they hear those with whom they associate doing the same. They say, "Why this thinness?" or, "A fine day for the ducks," just as they say "Yes!" or "No."

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GEORGE E. GARLAND, 11 Wall-st.

LOUIA CONTENCIN RESIGNS.

At a meeting of the Italian Chamber of Commerce yesterday, Louis Contencin, the president, resigned from the office after reading a voluminous report of the work of the Chamber. He said that the Chamber had prevented by its influence the filing of protests by several foreign nations against the passage of the Administration bill, and saved them an unpleasant rebuke from Secretary Blaine for attempting to interfere in the affairs of the United States Government; that thanks were due to Senator Illesco and Governor Flower for their action in tariff measures on green fruit; that with the co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce at Rome the Italian Government had been persuaded voluntarily to revoke the decree against the admission of American beef products; that the Chamber had been influential in a satisfactory settlement of the New-Orleans lynch-

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REAL ESTATE.

BUSINESS AT THE EXCHANGES.

There were 1,100 sales in the auction market yesterday, lots of 111 Broadway, under foreclosure, and both in the plaintiff in the proceedings. D. P. Ingraham & Co. offered No. 467½ East One-hundred-and-twenty-second, a three-story dwelling on a lot 16x88'-20'. The plaintiff was the buyer for \$7,343.75. E. F. Raymond offered Nos. 1,202 and 1,204 Broadway, lots 49 & 55 East Thirty-first-st., being the nos. 100 and 102, respectively, of the building, to the highest bidder, one-eighth interest in each, for \$250,000. The highest bid was \$125,000.

The following sales at public contract are reported:

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